

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 PM-05 /038 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:GDKULICK:DEF
APPROVED BY NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII
-----068063 282310Z /62
P 282240Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

1. NEW YORK TIMES OF FEBRUARY 27, IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON FEBRUARY 26 CABINET MEETING, CONTAINS FOLLOWING PASSAGE: "THE THREE PLANNED WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS (THOSE REAFFIRMED ON SUNDAY) ARE NEAR ISRAELI MILITARY CAMPS. ONE, TEL KHARIS, IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY, HAS ALREADY MADE A TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT. THE OTHER TWO--TAPUACH...AND SILT-A-DAHAR--ARE SCHEDULED TO BECOME CIVILIAN COMMUNITIES BY THE END OF MARCH."

2. SURVEY OF EMBASSY REPORTING OF LAST MONTH SHOWS NO INDICATION THAT TEL KHARIS (HARIS) HAS YET RECEIVED ANY CIVILIAN SETTLERS IN THE MILITARY CAMP THERE, MUCH LESS "ALREADY MADE THE TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT." WE SUSPECT THAT ARTICLE'S REFERENCES TO "CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT" AND "CIVILIAN COMMUNITIES" ARE IN FACT WHAT ISRAELIS HAVE RE-

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FERRED TO AS "CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS IN MILITARY CAMPS" AND THUS DO NOT REPRESENT DEPARTURE FROM GOI POLICY PURSUED IN ESTABLISHMENT OF EIGHT SUCH SETTLEMENTS SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1977.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN IF THIS INTERPRETATION IS CORRECT AND THAT IN FACT ISRAELIS HAVE NO INTENTION

OF DEPARTING FROM EXISTING PRACTICE OF RETAINING MILITARY
CONTROL OVER NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, LAND SETTLEMENT, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE051718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GDKULICK:DEF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780092-0898
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978022/aaaaabba.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 80e1dad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3495652
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS
TAGS: PBOR, IS, XF
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/80e1dad0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014